

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 8770

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 12118

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDID (CANG, DOAN BA; HOAN, NGUYEN), VS, NZ, AS

SUBJECT: NEW GVN AMBASSADORS TO WELLINGTON AND CANBERRA

REF: WELLINGTON 2844 (NOTAL)

1. REF REPORTED THAT GVN AMBASSADOR TO WELLINGTON, DOAN BA CANG, HAD INFORMED AMBASSADOR SELDEN THAT HE WOULD BE RETURNING TO SAIGON FOR TWO WEEKS CONSULTATIONS AND WISHED TO MEET AMBASSADOR MARTIN OR CHARGE' LEHMANN, IF POSSIBLE. (HE WILL CALL ON CHARGE' SEPTEMBER 18.) REFTEL ADDED THAT AMBASSADOR CANG HAD ESTABLISHED AN EXCELLENT REPUTATION IN WELLINGTON, HIGHLY RESPECTED BY BOTH GNZ AND DIPLOMATIC CORPS.

2. WE HAVE NOW LEARNED THAT AMBASSADOR CANG IS BEING TRANSFERRED TO GVN EMBASSY CANBERRA, WHICH HAS BEEN HEADED BY A CHARGE' FOR ABOUT FOUR MONTHS. NGUYEN HOAN, ASSISTANT TO THE FOREIGN MINISTER FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS AND EFFECTIVELY DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER, WILL BE NOMINATED TO REPLACE CANG IN WELLINGTON. BOTH ARE EXPECTED TO BE APPROVED BY THE SENATE SHORTLY.

3. FOR CANBERRA: AMBASSADOR CANG WAS BORN IN BEN TRE IN 1928. EDUCATED IN SAIGON AND LATER PARIS, WHERE HE RECEIVED A LICENTATE IN LAW FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF PARIS, HE HAS BEEN A CAREER DIPLOMAT FOR MANY YEARS. HE HAS SERVED IN PARIS, PHNOM PENH, ANKARA, TOKYO AND WELLINGTON, WHERE HE HAS BEEN AMBASSADOR SINCE JUNE 1972. HE
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IS REGARDED AS INTELLIGENT, EFFECTIVE, HARD-WORKING AND INCORRUPTIBLE

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HE HAS BEEN DESCRIBED AS QUITE WILLING TO COOPERATE WITH AMERICANS.
HE IS MARRIED WITH THREE CHILDREN AND SPEAKS FRENCH AND ENGLISH
FLUENTLY.

4. FOR WELLINGTON: NGUYEN HOAN IS AN EXPERIENCED CAREER DIPLOMAT.
HE HAS HELD SUCH POSTS AS CHIEF OF PROTOCOL AT THE PRESIDENTIAL
PALACE, CHIEF OF PROTOCOL AT THE MFA, AND DCM IN WASHINGTON. HOAN
IS FAVORABLY DISPOSED TOWARD THE UNITED STATES, SPEAKS AN AMERICAN
BRAND OF COLLOQUIAL ENGLISH, AND HAS ALWAYS BEEN COOPERATIVE WITH
THIS EMBASSY. AS NUMBER TWO IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY SINCE LAST APRIL,
HOAN HAS FREQUENTLY ACTED IN EFFECT AS INTERIM MINISTER IN THE ABSENC
E
OF HIS WIDELY-TRAVELED SUPERIOR FM BAC. ALTHOUGH CAPABLE,
HOAN IS SOMEWHAT LACKING IN FORCEFULNESS AND IMAGINATION.

5. WELLINGTON: WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR UPDATING OF OUR BIO INFORMA-
TIONON CANG, INFO CANBERRA.

6. WILL POUCH ADDITIONAL BIOGRAPHIC/BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON BOTH
OFFICIALS SHORTLY, AS WELL AS ON DO THIEU LIET, CURRENTLY CHIEF OF
PROTOCOL AT THE MFA, WHO HAS BEEN APPOINTED TO FILL DCM POSITION
AT GVN EMBASSY IN CANBERRA.
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